(c) At present there are 14 industries under compulsory licensing. (the list is enclosed as statement).

Statement

List of Industries for which industrial licence is compulosry

1. Coal and Lignite.
2. Petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products.
3. Distillation and brewing of alcoholic drinks.
4. Sugar.
5. Animal fats and oils.
6. Cigars and cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes.
7. Asbestos and asbestors-based products.
8. Plywood, veneers of all types, and other wood based products such as particla board, medium density fibre beard/block board.
9. Tanned or dressed furskias, chamois leather.
10. Paper and newsprint except bagasse-agro residue or waste paper based units.
11. Electronic aerospace and defence equipment; all types.
12. Industrial explosives including detonating fuses, safety fuses, gun powder, nitrocollulose and matches.
13. Hazardous chemicals.
14. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (according to Modified Drug Policy issued in September, 1994).

Note: The compulsory licensing provisions would not apply in respect of the small scale units taking up the manufacture of item(s) included in any of the above sectors if such item(s) is (are) reserved for exclusive manufacture in small-scale sector.

Discouraging MNC entry in non-priority areas

1758. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Common Minimum Programme is committed to discourage MNC entry in 'Non-priority' areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) specific steps taken to implement this commitment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per Commom Minimum Programme, entry of the multinational companies into the low priority areas will be discouraged through suitable fiscal and other measures. However, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is constantly kept under review with the objective of increasing FDI into the country, particularly in the priority sectors which can change from time to time depending on the consideration such as promotion of greater exports, creation of more employment opportunities, backward linkages to farmers etc. Each proposal for FDI is considered on merit.

Impact of High Technology on exports

1759. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item in the Financial Express dated 13th November, 1996, under the caption "High Technology given short shrift to exports";

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered to find out the truth; and

(c) the long term/short term measures intended to safeguard the promotion of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Sir, the news report refers to the new computer system in the Delhi Customs House in the Air Cargo Terminal in Delhi. The computerisation is being introduced in stages and the processing of export documents pertaining to drawback shipping bills started from 1.11.96. It is learnt that there was a slight slow down in processing during the changeover in the first week but the system has since stablished.

(c) Export promotion measures are continously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes based on interaction with industry, trade and other promotional institutions.

Financial position of Bharat Refractories Ltd. and Burns Standard Ltd.

1760. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Refractories Limited and Burns Standard Company Limited, the two public sector undertakings producing refractory bricks are running at a profit;

(b) if so, their profit for the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Both Bharat Refractories Limited and Burn Standard Company Limited manufacture refractory bricks. Both companies are incurring losses.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) Obsolete plant and machinery, low off-take of refractories due to change in demand pattern, under-utilization of capacity, shortage of power/coal, shortage of working capital etc. are the reasons for the losses.

Formulation of a National Wage Policy

1761. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: SHRI PRAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering formulation of a National Wage Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There is no proposal before the Government to formulate the National Wage Policy;

(b) Wages in the organised sector are determined through negotiations and settlements. Wherever necessary, the Government also constitutes Wage Boards, in certain sectors, for fixation and revision of wages. In the unorganised sector, wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Minimum Wages Act, both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. The Act provides for the periodic revision of minimum rates of wages.

Exploration and exploitation of zinc and lead resources in the country

1762. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the identified zinc and lead resources in the country;

(b) the total installed capacity in the organised sector for production of zinc and lead at present;